

And it doesn't have to be this way. People don't have to be in an environment that is constantly under abuse. You can leave, whether that is today, whether that is tomorrow, whether that is decades from now.

Today, I am very proud. Years ago, my mother left that abusive environment. Just last year, she was able to get her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, UTEP. It was amazing for her to go back and get her education.

Today, she lives with me. She, along with my wife, Angel, helps raise our children. And today, she is in an environment where she is loved.

This month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we can't lose sight of that. If you are in a violent situation, you, too, can get out. You, too, can change the direction of your life, and your children can go off and be very successful because we live in the greatest country on Earth. Whether it is today, tomorrow, or a decade from now, please leave your abusive environment and get back to a place of happiness and love.

□ 1030

STRIKETOBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, from this podium, and on the streets of Chicago, I have spoken out quite a bit about essential workers.

They work every day to keep our country going, often risking their lives, their families, and they deserve respect and dignity on the job.

But today, I want to talk about the courage that it takes not to go to work and to go out on strike for better working conditions.

As we speak, thousands of workers are on strike; from the nurses and healthcare workers to the people who make cereal, tractors, and whiskey. And tens of thousands more have taken strike votes and are ready to join them if they can't reach agreements with their employers.

It is a strike wave, and we are calling it "Striketober."

And I stand today in solidarity with these workers who are fighting for safer working conditions, a decent living wage, and the ability to retire with dignity.

Just in the past few weeks in my city of Chicago, I stood with Nabisco workers from the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union, auto mechanics from the International Association of Machinists, and employees at the Art Institute of Chicago who are fighting to join a union, AFSCME.

Only days later, the workers at a local tortilla plant in my own neighborhood, El Milagro, walked out protesting an unsafe workplace, unfair wages, and sexual harassment at the company's plants.

In recent years, teachers, nurses, county employees, nursing home workers, and even the symphony orchestra performers in our city went on strike.

They aren't just striking for themselves, they fought to provide community resources in our schools, improve patient care for our seniors, and create art for the public.

These workers and their struggles are the newest chapters of Chicago's historic role as the center of our country's labor movement.

International Workers' Day—celebrated around the world on May 1—commemorates the Haymarket protests in Chicago in 1886, which led to the 8-hour workday and ended child labor.

The Pullman strike, brutally suppressed by our own government, is commemorated every year on Labor Day.

This is my own history, too.

I came to Chicago as an immigrant from Mexico, and my parents' jobs and benefits as Teamsters—and my own work as a member of the Retail Workers Union, as a member of the Teamsters, the United Legal Workers affiliated with the UAW—helped make me who I am today.

So when these workers walk out on strike, they walk out for all of us.

Safety at work, dignity in retirement, a living wage, these are important issues for everyone.

There is a picket line chant that says, "If we can't get it, shut it down." And it is time that working-class people did just that.

Striketober was a long time coming. The Federal minimum wage has been at \$7.25 for over a decade, but millionaires got 62 percent richer during the pandemic.

A vial of insulin costs \$6 to make, but pharmaceutical companies sell it for as much as \$275.

Rent, childcare, and medical bills go up and up, and pundits won't stop complaining about wage inflation.

So workers across the country are standing up to say: Enough is enough. And they are standing up for us.

So we have got to support these workers on the picket lines any way we can.

In Congress, this means supporting proworker legislation, like the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, which guarantees workplace rights.

It means protecting frontline workers, from nurses to CTA bus drivers, to Instacart shoppers.

It means supporting workers at the bargaining table and on the picket line because when workers fight, we all win.

Si, se puede. Yes, we can.

RECOGNIZING RAYMOND ANDREW SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary sacrifice by a resident of Brooklyn, New York.

Private First Class Raymond Andrew Smith was 18 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, in the Korean war.

Growing up, Raymond and his sister Helen experienced a difficult childhood in foster care, forcing them to take on responsibilities far beyond their years. And despite the challenges he faced, at the age of 14 Raymond joined the Navy.

Once Raymond's age was discovered by his superiors, the Navy granted him an honorable discharge, but that wouldn't stop Raymond's drive for service. Four years later, Raymond enlisted in the United States Army, and after 6 months, he was shipped off to fight in the Korean war.

The Korean war began in June of 1950 when General Douglas MacArthur, alongside South Korean and U.N. forces made significant progress into the north with hopes of uniting the two countries again.

However, Communist China under Mao Zedong had other plans, and sent roughly 100,000 troops to the Chosin Reservoir to counter progress made by America and our allies, leading to the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

With the 7th Infantry Division, Raymond fought in this battle, a battle many military experts and scholars consider to be one of the most brutal conflicts in modern history due to the sheer fierceness of our opponents and severe weather elements.

For 17 days, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir raged on. In that timeframe, it is estimated that the United States suffered 18,000 casualties, while the Chinese suffered upward of 50,000 casualties, 30,000 just from the freezing cold alone. During the battle, temperatures were said to have dropped to a chilling negative 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Medical supplies froze solid, rendering them useless, weapons seized and failed to function, and digging foxholes was nearly impossible without the use of machinery. At negative 35 degrees Fahrenheit, the human body sets into hypothermic shock in only 5 to 7 minutes.

Private First Class Raymond Smith was one of the first to make contact with the enemy. Raymond and his peers were vastly outnumbered, and while they fought valiantly, he was sadly reported missing on December 2, 1950, presumed to be dead.

On July 27, 2018, following a summit between then-President Donald Trump and North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-un, North Korea returned 55 boxes that contained the remains of American servicemembers killed during the Korean war.

And on March 25, 2021, Raymond's family received closure when his remains were finally identified and accounted for after 71 unbearable years for his family. Raymond's remains